

STORY 64.

ISLAMIC IDEAL OF KINGLY DUTY.

ON the day when (Hazrat) Omar Bin Abdulaziz assumed the reins of the Khalifat he was so busy in the affairs of the state that he had to sit up far into the night. In the the morning he felt very sleepy and thought of having a short nap. Upon this his son Abdul Malik said to him, "Father, many very urgent questions relating to the rights of the people are awaiting your immediate attention and you are thinking of taking rest?"

The Khalifa said "I wish to sleep only for a few minutes, and I will attend to these things after midday prayers."

Upon this his son said "Father: are you quite certain that you will live till then?"

When (Hazrat) Omar heard this from his son, he kissed him on the forehead, praised him for his plain speaking and moral courage, and thanked God that he had blessed him with such a son.

Then he gave up the thought of sleep, and addressed himself to the affairs of the state.

STORY 65.

THE LAW OF ISLAM MAKES NO DISTINCTION
BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW.

IMAM ABU-YOUSAF is regarded as one of the most eminent jurists of Islam. He occupied the exalted position of chief justice at Baghdad during three Caliphates.

Once he had to try a case in which the parties were a Jew and Harun-ul-Rashid himself.

The Jew realising his position of inferiority naturally stood a little behind the Caliph, but the judge ordered him to stand shoulder to shoulder with him because the law made no distinction between the high and the low. Harun was greatly pleased with this attitude adopted by the judge, and continued to honour him till the end of his reign.